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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,913	07/11/2003	Forest A. Hatcher	4239-00009	4221
26308	7590	12/11/2007	EXAMINER	
RYAN KROMHOLZ & MANION, S.C. POST OFFICE BOX 26618 MILWAUKEE, WI 53226			RICCI, JOHN A	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3711				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/11/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/617,913	HATCHER, FOREST A.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	John Ricci	3711	

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 31-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 31-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 34-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

\* \* \* \* \*

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the collet having a tapered inner surface with internal threads (claim 31) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Applicant shows a collet 24 having internal threads and a tapered inner surface (figure 2). This collet is not shown used with an adapter cylinder 50. The adapter cylinder is used with a different collet 52 (figure 6). As shown in figure 7, this collet 52 has internal threads 68, but does not appear to have a tapered inner surface. No figure shows the adapter cylinder 50 used with a collet which has both internal threads and an inner taper.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the

differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 34 & 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al 5,282,454 in view of Moody 661,352.

Bell shows a paintball gun having a feed tube 26, which receives a feed neck 32 of a paintball hopper 28. It appears that the feed neck is held in the feed tube only by friction; these may become separated during rough use. One would recognize that it would be desirable to provide a stronger connection between the gun and hopper. For example, Moody shows that a tube A (comparable to a feed neck), may be received in a tube B (comparable to a feed tube) having external threads B1, and held by a threaded collet C having an O-ring D, which is compressed against tube A. One would recognize that this connection would be desirable in the gun of Bell to more securely connect the gun and hopper. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the gun of Bell with the connector shown by Moody.

It would be possible to loosen and tighten the collet of Moody by hand; the claim of a "releasably attachable, hand tightenable collet" does not define structure beyond that shown by Moody.

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell in view of Moody as applied to claim 34 above, and further in view of Magnani 2,829,909.

Moody shows the collet with only one O-ring. One would recognize that additional O-rings may better secure the tubes. For example, Magnani shows that a collet for securing tubes may include multiple O-rings. It would have been obvious to include additional O-rings in the connection shown by Bell and Moody, as suggested by Magnani.

\* \* \* \* \*

Applicant's arguments filed 9/18/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is necessary for the claims to include sufficient structure to define over the prior art, not merely

function. The connection of Moody is "releasable"; Moody does not show any feature such as adhesive or welding that would prevent the connection from being released. The collet could also be tightened by hand; this may be adequate if the pressure in the pipe is low.

\* \* \* \* \*

Claims 31-33 are allowed.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

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CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

\* \* \* \* \*

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 571-272-4429

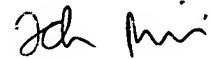
Fax: Use 571-273-8300 for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

*Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.*

PTO main switchboard: 800-786-9199.

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**JOHN RICCI  
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ART UNIT 3711**